



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Joshua D. Cawthra**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**  
**(206) 870-3850**

**March 19, 2009**

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**Subject:** WPR09FA154, N2698Y, Cessna 180F

**Witness:** Jim Stein  
**Address:** Townsend, Montana

Mr. Stein reported that he was located about 2 miles northeast of the accident site on March 17, 2009. While watching two people trespass on private property, Mr. Stein observed a high wing airplane similar to the accident airplane flying on a northerly heading to the west of a set of power lines that were adjacent to a main railroad crossing. Mr. Stein stated that the tops of the wings were below the power lines and he estimated the airplane was 20 – 30 feet above the ground traveling at a high rate of speed. He added that the airplane was low enough, it spooked a heard of elk near the airplanes flight path. Mr. Stein continued watching the airplane as it pitched upwards and to the left, making a 180-degree turn near the Kelly Gulch area to a southerly heading. He added that the as the airplane pitched upwards, he was able to see the tops of the wings. Mr. Stein further stated that he stopped watching the airplane to continue observing the trespassers.

According to Mr. Stein, around the time of the accident, he observed a storm over the mountain range west of the accident site with visible snow precipitation. He also stated that there was about 6 – 7 inches of snow on the ground in the area of the accident and the wind was about 5 – 10 miles an hour.